

NO FIRE DRILLS ON THE SLOCUM, SAYS ENGINEER

Benjamin Conklin Testifies to Lack of Precautions on Steamboat.

ABOARD-DAY AND NIGHT

Declares at Van Schaick Trial that Water Was Not Sent Through Hose.

Benjamin Conklin, chief engineer of the Gen. Slocum, to-day declared, as the trial of Capt. William Van Schaick, in the United States Circuit Court, that there were no fire drills on the ill-fated steamboat in 1904 prior to the disaster in which 1,000 Sunday-school excursionists from St. Mark's Church were drowned.

"I was on board night and day," said the gray-haired engineer, who was called by the Government to show the defective and useless condition of the fire-extinguishing apparatus. "There was a steam pump forward connected with two standpipes and two hand pumps. No water was sent through the hose that year. I never saw the men called to quarters."

The court-room was crowded with survivors of the Slocum. An old man—the only one of the family of six who had gone on the river on that sunny June day, and a wee two-year-old girl, the youngest survivor—were striking examples of the wide range of horror encompassed. There were widows who had lost husbands and children, and bright-faced boys and girls who had been orphaned.

Capt. Van Schaick sat alongside his counsel, ex-Judge Dittenhofer, twining his long moustache, or complacently opening and shutting a huge jackknife. The model of his burned steamer was before him on the table. As the engineer pointed out the position of the standpipes he looked on with a dim, distant air.

Describes the Fire. "I was in the engine-room," began the engineer in telling of the fire, when Mate Finnigan ran by saying there was fire forward. I left the engine-room and hurried toward the steam pump on the main deck. I saw the men laying the hose and there was smoke and flame in the cabin door. I turned on the pump and stood by until driven off by smoke and flame.

Engineer Conklin said he received no orders from the captain and did not see Van Schaick until he reached shore. "Before I left the pump the decks were filling with the burning oil and promiscuous decks were down forward and aft of the engine room." An element of force was in the proceedings, by the frequent clashes between Assistant District-Attorney Baldwin and ex-Judge Dittenhofer. Judge Thomas finally took a firm stand and the comedy gave way to a renewal of the recital of the Slocum tragedy.

Everett Brandow, the second engineer, said he stayed in the engine-room, responded to all the bells and jumped overboard after the steamer was beached.

Walter Paine, a negro porter, who filled the lamps in the storeroom where the fire is believed to have originated, told of his duties. "I found a lamp on which he placed the lamp. A barrel of oil was alongside the tube. It was on the pump and I heard about the fire," he said. "The mate called up the tube to the captain and I ran down the stairs and the fire drove me back. The mate got down the hose and I tried to take the kinks out. Then the water was turned on."

Tells of Rotten Hose. "Then what happened?" asked Mr. Baldwin. "The hose burst at the standpipe. The canvas tow away from the coupling."

Paine said he had no fire-station number, but never been summoned to a fire drill and received no orders from any body on the day of the fire.

REVERSES IN BUSINESS CAUSED HIS SUICIDE.

Old Keeper of Shop Put Bullet Through His Brain After Loss of Money.

Despondent because he had met with business reverses, Herman Peterson, sixty-one years old, shot himself twice in the right temple in his little hall bedroom on the top floor of the furnished-room house at No. 215 East Nineteenth street. For several years the old man kept a small delicatessen store at No. 217 Third avenue. Lately business had been poor and Peterson was often heard to complain of his troubles. In addition to this he had been ill for some time.

The body of the dead man was found early to-day by Jasper W. Trainor, employed at Peterson's store, who went to his employer's room to awaken him. Peterson came to this country from Germany several years ago and has no relatives in this city.

THE CALL OF THE WORLD.

In 1905, the twenty-third year of The World's continuous growth since its uplifting began in 1883, it printed, in its morning and Sunday editions only, 34,690 columns of advertising, an increase of 6,498 1/4 columns, divided into 1,134,959 single paid advertisements, a gain over 1904 of 306,316.

The New York newspaper closest to The World in total space grew much less than half as much in columns and increased but 7,911 single advertisements.

GROWTH BY PERIODS.

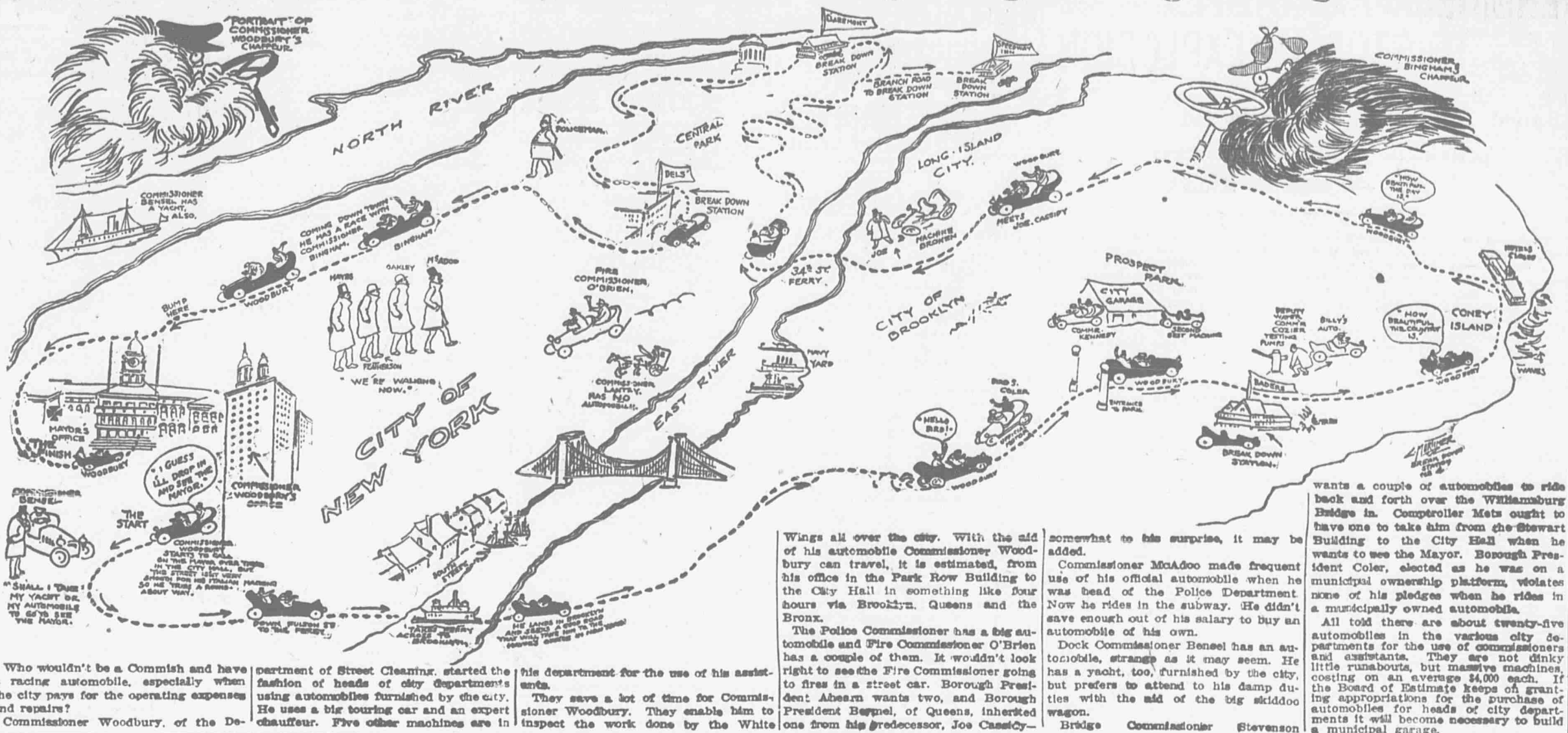
Year	Advts. Published
1883	86,577
1885	448,793
1890	782,794
1900	874,958
1905	1,134,959

The World's want momentum reached its greatest force in the last half of the year when, according to a count made by Messrs. Barrow, Wade, Guthrie & Co., chartered accountants, it printed 611,515 advertisements, against 556,817 printed by the New York Herald, leading it by 55,698 in the aggregate printed for the six months from July 1 to January 1.

No other newspaper ever before made such gains in a similar period or reached so vast a total.

More than 75 per cent. of The World's Want advertisers give their business addresses, but, despite this, over 870,000 replies came to the box numbers in The World's own post-office.

Who Wouldn't Be a City "Commish" and Chug-Chug in a Big Racing Automobile



CIVIL SERVICE FOR ELECTION OFFICERS

Idea of Ivins, Who Says Work of Some Is Like Scrawls of Drunken Spider.

ALBANY, Jan. 17.—The second day of the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association in the Common Council Chamber in this city, was characterized by the discussion of electoral reform, one of the chief subjects which will occupy the attention of the Legislature this year. The topic was opened with a paper by William M. Ivins, of New York, the recent Republican candidate for Mayor. After giving a very full history of elections and of the election laws in New York, and discussing the late opinion of the Court of Appeals in the Heart case, Mr. Ivins pointed out the incapacity of the election laws and the system. He advocated extensive reforms, primarily the adoption of the Australian ballot and the passage of a corrupt practices act.

Beginning with the matter of registration, Mr. Ivins said some such system of civil registration as exists in the continental countries of Europe, where by every citizen can be readily recognized because of his etat civil, should be adopted here. Such consequences of fraudulent registration and fraudulent peroration at the polls as exists in this country is unconscionable in France or Germany.

"One of the chief causes of the miscarriages of our elections at the present time in the city of New York at any rate," he said, "is the want of character and capacity on the part of the inspectors, and the fact that practically all of them and of both parties either are, or hope to be, professional politicians, or as a compensation for their political activities hope to live at the expense of the public treasury."

"This is a class of temporary public servants without either qualifications or motive for good or even honest work. As a consequence, in some of our election districts in the city of New York the clerical and mathematical work of the inspectors might just as well be done by a lot of drunken spiders with ink on their legs."

Mr. Ivins argued that election inspectors should be civil-service appointees and assigned to other than their home districts. "The last department of the law in which reform is necessary is that of the provision for judicial review. It seems to me that we are under an inevitable necessity, if the will of the people is to prevail, to adopt the suggestion of the dissenting judges of the Court of Appeals (in the Heart case) and make explicit provision for a judicial recount of the ballot without reference to quo warranto proceedings upon the making of a proper case of 'inaccuracy or fraud.'"

There was an atmosphere of uneasiness in Wall street to-day. The market opened feverishly and brokenly walked about with anxious faces. The messenger boys in the Postal office in Broad street were on strike.

It was a sudden, paralyzing strike that created much confusion. When the 100 boys comprising the messenger staff reported for work at 8:30 o'clock, they found a new rule. Hereafter they have been taking out from twenty to thirty messages on the first trip. The new rule cut this number down to from eight to ten messages.

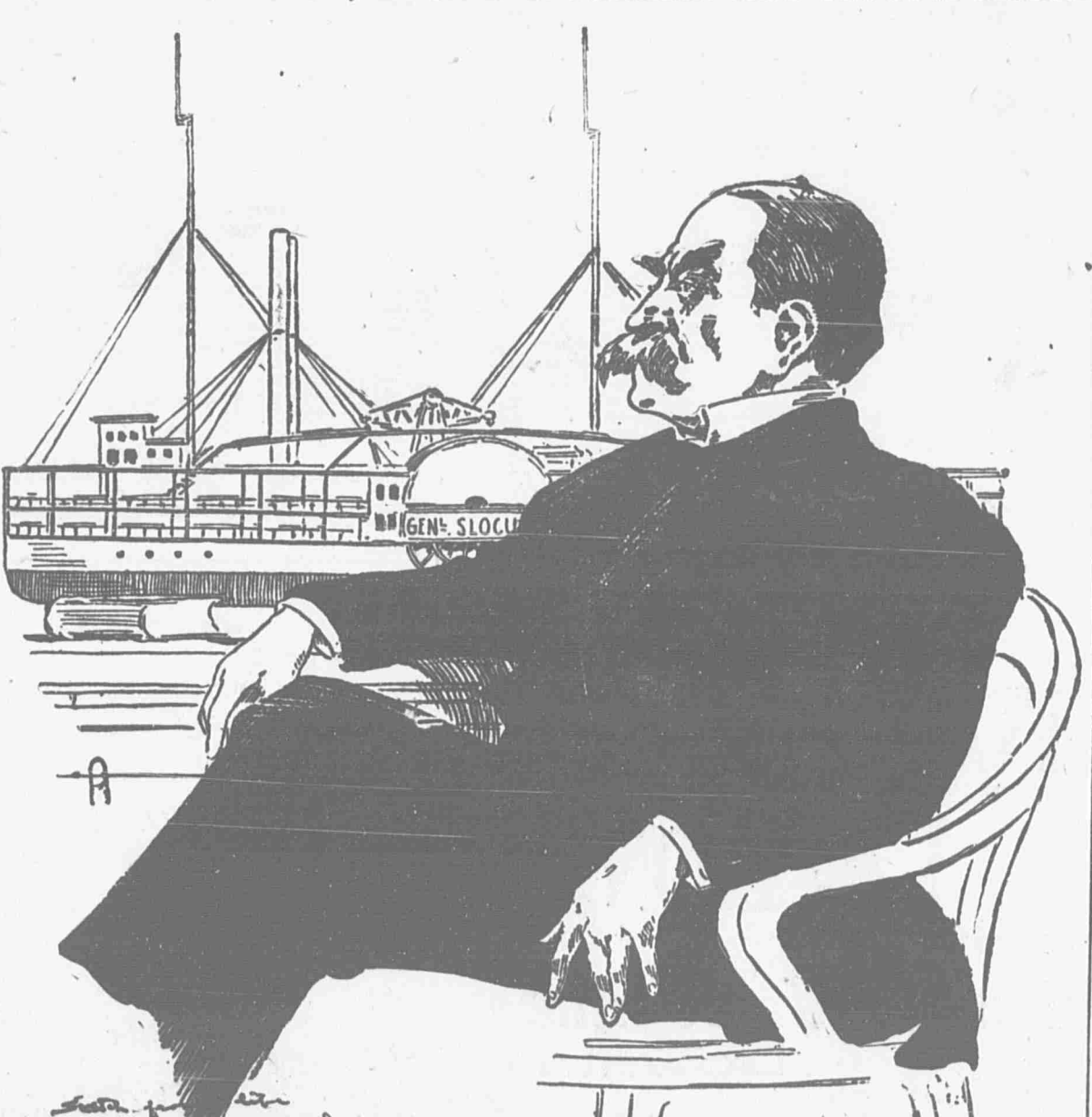
The excuse for the change was that the boys had too many messages, and their natural loitering did not get through delivering the last of the bundle until noon or later. Loud howls of indignation greeted the promulgation of the order.

"Our position," explained Algernon Percy Stuyvesant, a messenger boy who shaves, "commands the respectful attention of the people. It is preposterous to attempt to cut our incomes in two just now when times are hard in the street."

"Manager Ostrum is a good, kind man and a favorite with the boys. We can't believe that he is responsible for this outrageous infraction of our rights and privileges. More than likely it is the cursed capitalist ring that is grinding down the poor and oppressed. In the words of the immortal hero, Gen. Grant, 'We will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer.'"

P. S.—This is the first story of a messenger boy's strike ever printed in which "Don't Face" Mulcahey or "Big Smith" was not quoted as saying "Don't Face" Mulcahey or "Big Smith."

CAPT. VAN SCHAICK, ENGINEER CONKLIN AND SLOCUM MODEL



MESSANGER BOYS' STRIKE IS BROKEN

Iron Heel of Capital Causes Revolt and Leader's Arrest.

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ENGINEER CONKLIN.

The prospect of going home jobless proving too much for their loyalty to their fellows.

Abe Solomon, sixteen years old, of No. 15 Rutgers street, took the leadership of the strike. He was the head and front of a disturbance in front of the Stock Exchange, and when ordered to move on by Policemen O'Brien struck him in the face. O'Brien placed him in the back of a police wagon and took him to the Old Slip station. With the aid of forty boys from the Broadway office Manager Ostrum had the strike well throttled when the market closed.

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HIGGINS FACES ANOTHER REVOLT

Legislators Resent Ruling That They Cannot Investigate State Bureaus.

(Special to The Evening World.) ALBANY, Jan. 17.—The announcement of Gov. Higgins that the Legislature has not the right to investigate State Departments, especially those of Hendricks and Kilburn, has aroused the Senate and Assembly, leading members of both Houses freely criticizing the Governor for his attitude.

"It is neither good law nor sound doctrine and was an altogether unfortunate mistake for the Governor to make at this particular time."

"The Legislature has always had the right to investigate for the purpose of securing material for remedial legislation. The power of removal rests solely with the Governor. The contention of the Governor that the present Legislature can not investigate, because a law was passed some years ago preventing such action, amounts to nothing."

"No Legislature can pass a law divesting a future Legislature of its right to investigate."

"Now, I believe it will be a great mistake to allow such a declaration as the Governor has made to go unchallenged, for it would be most unfortunate to have such a policy established as a precedent for the future. As to the political side of the question, it is unfortunate that the Governor has taken this attitude at this time."

Assemblyman Walworth also assailed the Governor's position. "It is the inherent right of the Legislature," he said, "to investigate State departments with a view to remedying by legislation any defects which may exist and to pre-

FOUR HAZING MIDDIES PUBLICLY DISMISSED

Petersen, Marzoni, Foster and Coffin Are Called from the Ranks During Brigade Parade at Annapolis on Bonaparte's Order.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 17.—At noon today, when the full brigade of midshipmen were paraded for the regular dinner formation, Midshipmen Petersen, Marzoni and W. W. Foster, of the first class, and Tremmer Coffin, Jr., of the third class, were publicly dismissed from the United States Navy for hazing plebes, or fourth class men.

The order of the Secretary of the Navy was a short one, and in each case was addressed personally to the midshipman directly concerned.

ADMITTS HE'S WED TO THREE WIVES

Dentist Edward Byron Vogel Can't Recall Name of One of Them.

Edward Byron Vogel, who says he is a dentist, living at No. 233 Ninth street, Brooklyn, a debonair and well-dressed man of twenty-seven years, appeared to be slightly amused to-day when he was confronted by two wives—one a handsome blonde and the other a statuesque brunette—in the Morrisania Police Court. The dentist admitted that he had a third wife, but could not remember her last name. He did recall that her first name was Carrie, that she worked in one of the department stores and that her home was somewhere in Jersey.

"You see I married this lady about five years ago, and since that time I have cast my lot with two other ladies," he said, looking at the two women. "It would be quite impossible for me to remember a lady's name for so long a period."

Two Wives Get a Warrant. Dentist Vogel was arrested yesterday by Court Officer Mitchell, of the Morrisania Police Court on a warrant sworn out by Carrie E. Vogel, twenty-five years old, of No. 67 East One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street, and Ida Elbers, twenty-four years old, who said she lived at No. 6 West Nineteenth street. The first named is Mrs. Edward Byron Vogel No. 1, and the latter is Mrs. Edward Byron Vogel No. 2. Mrs. Vogel declares, her husband left her and their three-week-old child.

The very next day after he had left his wife, it is alleged, he was wedded to Ida Elbers at the Little Church Around the Corner. "The Rev. E. C. Houghton tied this knot. It was only recently that Wife No. 2 became pregnant. The power of removal rests solely with the Governor. The contention of the Governor that the present Legislature can not investigate, because a law was passed some years ago preventing such action, amounts to nothing."

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POLICE DELVE INTO AFFAIRS OF BANK

Start Investigation as Treasurer of Boston Concern Takes Trip to Canada.

BOSTON, Jan. 17.—Assistant Attorney-General De Gosh to-day petitioned that a receiver be appointed for the Provident Securities and Banking Company which was placed in the hands of custodians about ten days ago by the State Supreme Court.

The petition was offered as a consequence of an alleged visit by Treasurer Lorenzo W. Burien to the company's offices and the alleged removal of property on the evening of Jan. 4, application for an injunction to restrain the company from doing business, having been filed by the State Savings Bank Commissioners during the afternoon of that day.

In connection with general investigations which are now being made both by the city and State authorities into the business methods of the company, the Board of Police will give a hearing next Tuesday on charges which have been preferred against Police Capt. Edward F. Gaskin and Lieut. Frederick J. Smith. These officials are charged with neglect of duty in failing to report to their superior the visit of Burien to the Provident bank.

Burien left Boston yesterday after having declined, by advice of counsel, a request of the District Attorney, Morris, to appear at the District Attorney's office. He was in Montreal last night.

Several depositors of the concern have submitted their cases to the police and charged that the solvency of the institution was the object of the action when they made their deposits.

MONTREAL, Jan. 17.—L. W. Burien, treasurer of the Provident Securities and Savings Company, of Boston, which was closed by order of the courts, arrived here last night and registered at one of the leading hotels. He received mail there addressed to "George Smith," Burien said he came to Canada on the advice of his attorney, in search of rest and to avoid embarrassment.

Silks and Dress Goods.

Remnant Sale of Plain & Fancy Silks in lengths varying from 2 to 10 yards, to close at 50c. yd.

Crêpe de Chine. A superb quality in about 60 shades including all the evening tints, at 68c. yd.

Colored Taffeta Silks. We show an assortment of 75 desirable shades in the very best taffeta offered in the market, at 58c. yd.

All the evening tints are included.

Dress Goods Dept. Black Canvas Voile, full 46 inches wide, that formerly sold at \$1.00 yd.; reduced to 50c. yd.

Remnants to close.

We have a few hundred Short Ends of different kinds of Dress Goods from 4 to 8 yards, to close at 58c. yd., value \$1.50 to \$2.00 yd.

Lord & Taylor, Broadway and Twentieth Street; Fifth Avenue; Nineteenth Street.

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